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8 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
9 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA  
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11 DOYLE WAYNE DAVIS, CDCR  
12 #34318,

13 Plaintiff,

14 v.

15 DANIEL PARAMO, Warden, et al.,

16 Defendants.

Case No.: 16cv689 BEN (JMA)

**ORDER ON PLAINTIFF'S  
MOTIONS [ECF Nos. 86, 90, 92, 94]**

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18 Plaintiff Doyle Wayne Davis has filed a motion to compel discovery, a  
19 motion for appointment of counsel and experts, a motion for an order to issue  
20 subpoenas duces tecum, and a motion for the court to order the Richard J.  
21 Donovan Correctional Facility ("RJD") to use a telephone conference call speaker  
22 for future Case Management Conferences with the Court. (ECF Nos. 86, 90, 92,  
23 94.) For the reasons set forth below, the Court hereby **ORDERS** as follows:

24 **A. Motion to compel discovery**

25 In his motion to compel discovery filed on November 2, 2017 nunc pro tunc  
26 October 31, 2017, Plaintiff seeks an order compelling the production of medical  
27 records as well as the identity of John Doe "Jose." (ECF No. 86.) Defendants J.  
28 Silva and S. Pasha ("Defendants") filed an opposition. (ECF No. 88.) Plaintiff's

1 motion is DENIED. With respect to Plaintiff's medical records, the Court did not,  
2 as Plaintiff contends, require Defendants to subpoena Plaintiff's medical records  
3 from his non-prison providers, including Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center, Tri-  
4 City Medical Center, and Alvarado Medical Center. Rather, the Court observed  
5 that *if* Defendants chose to subpoena Plaintiff's medical records from these  
6 facilities, Plaintiff would be entitled to inspect the documents produced or obtain  
7 copies of such documents upon payment of a reasonable copying charge. See  
8 Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a), Advisory Committee Notes (2013 Amendment) ("Parties  
9 desiring access to information produced in response to [a] subpoena will need to  
10 follow up with the party serving it or the person served to obtain such access. . . .  
11 The party serving the subpoena should . . . make reasonable provision for  
12 prompt access."); see also Vensor v. Central Arizona Corr. Facility, 2014 WL  
13 12675251, at \*2 (D. Ariz. 2014) (requiring the defendant to serve on the plaintiff  
14 copies of documents received in response to the defendant's subpoena). The  
15 Court did not order Defendants to issue subpoenas to Plaintiff's medical  
16 providers, nor could it. It is up to Defendants to decide which discovery to  
17 pursue. If Defendants opt to not subpoena these records and Plaintiff believes  
18 they are needed to support his claims, it is up to Plaintiff to obtain them.

19 With respect to Plaintiff's request for an order compelling Defendants to  
20 provide the identity of Defendant John Doe "Jose," the Court cannot compel the  
21 production of discovery that has not been served. Plaintiff has not yet served an  
22 interrogatory or any other discovery seeking the identity of Defendant John Doe  
23 "Jose." Plaintiff's "motion to compel discovery and/or waiver of service" dated  
24 September 28, 2016 did not constitute a discovery request. As the Court stated  
25 in its December 16, 2016 order on Plaintiff's motion to compel, discovery had not  
26 yet been authorized at that time, as three motions to dismiss were pending  
27 before the Court. The Court stated, "If this case proceeds to discovery, Plaintiff  
28 may then attempt to ascertain the true identity of Defendant John Doe "Jose" and

1 seek to amend his Complaint to name that defendant.” Dec. 16, 2016 Order,  
2 ECF No. 57, at 4. Now that the case has proceeded to discovery, Plaintiff may  
3 seek this discovery by following the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure. As he has  
4 not yet done so, this motion is premature.<sup>1</sup>

5 **B. Motion for appointment of counsel and experts**

6 Plaintiff, proceeding in forma pauperis (“IFP”), seeks the appointment of  
7 counsel for the second time “based upon additional facts not before the Court  
8 previously.” (ECF No. 90.)<sup>2</sup> He contends his rapidly deteriorating medical  
9 condition, severe heart failure, prevents him from litigating this matter on his own.  
10 (Id.) “[T]here is no absolute right to counsel in civil proceedings.” Hedges v.  
11 Resolution Trust Corp., 32 F.3d 1360, 1363 (9th Cir. 1994) (citation omitted).  
12 District courts have discretion, however, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. § 1915(e)(1), to  
13 appoint counsel for indigent civil litigants upon a showing of “exceptional  
14 circumstances.” See Terrell v. Brewer, 935 F.2d 1015, 1017 (9th Cir. 1991). “A  
15 finding of exceptional circumstances requires an evaluation of both ‘the likelihood  
16 of success on the merits and the ability of the petitioner to articulate his claims  
17 *pro se* in light of the complexity of the legal issues involved.” Neither of these  
18 factors is dispositive and both must be viewed together before reaching a  
19 decision.” Id. (citations omitted).

20 The Court, in denying Plaintiff’s initial motion for appointment of counsel,  
21 found Plaintiff had not demonstrated “exceptional circumstances” required to  
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24 <sup>1</sup> Plaintiff is cautioned that he may not file motions to compel discovery until he has  
25 served formal discovery requests, received a response (or allowed for a sufficient amount of  
26 time to receive a response), and thoroughly met and conferred with Defendants’ counsel  
27 regarding any areas in dispute. A motion to compel discovery, including the instant motion,  
28 does not constitute a discovery request.

<sup>2</sup> The Honorable Roger T. Benitez denied Plaintiff’s first motion to appoint counsel on  
July 18, 2016. (ECF No. 11.)

1 justify the appointment of counsel. July 18, 2016 Order, ECF No. 11 at 4-5. The  
2 alleged continued deterioration of Plaintiff's health does not alter the Court's  
3 analysis. See, e.g., Jefferson v. Hollingsworth, 2017 WL 3396516, at \*2 (S.D.  
4 Cal. 2017) (denying motion for appointment of counsel despite the plaintiff's  
5 allegation of compromised health). The facts alleged in the Complaint are not  
6 complex and Plaintiff has demonstrated an ability to articulate the factual and  
7 legal bases of his claim with sufficient clarity and to litigate his claim on his own  
8 behalf. Based on the record currently before the Court, it is clear that Plaintiff  
9 has the competence necessary to pursue his case. Without more, this Court  
10 cannot conclude that there are "exceptional circumstances" which would warrant  
11 the appointment of counsel in Plaintiff's case. Further, Plaintiff has not submitted  
12 anything which would suggest he is likely to succeed on the merits. Accordingly,  
13 the Court DENIES Plaintiff's second motion for appointment of counsel.

14 Plaintiff also seeks the appointment of cardiac and neurologic experts.  
15 (ECF No. 90 at 36-37.) He argues there will be a "multitude of medical  
16 information, medical records, and medical based standards" that will need to be  
17 explained to the jury in this case. (Id. at 2.) An expert witness may testify to help  
18 the trier of fact determine the evidence or a fact at issue. Fed. R. Evid. 702. A  
19 court has full discretion to appoint a neutral expert witness pursuant to Fed. R.  
20 Evid. 706(a). Appointment of an expert witness is generally appropriate when  
21 "scientific, technical, or other specialized knowledge will assist the trier of fact to  
22 understand the evidence or decide a fact in issue." Torbert v. Gore, 2016 WL  
23 2460262, at \*2 (S.D. Cal. 2016). The IFP statute, 28 U.S.C. § 1915, does not  
24 waive the requirement of the payment of fees or expenses for witnesses in a  
25 § 1983 prisoner civil rights action. Dixon v. Ylst, 990 F.2d 478, 480 (9th Cir.  
26 1993).

27 To the extent Plaintiff seeks appointment of an expert for his own benefit,  
28 the Court has no authority to grant him such relief. Rule 706(a) permits the Court

1 to appoint only neutral expert witnesses. Furthermore, “28 U.S.C. § 1915 does  
2 not authorize the court to appoint an expert for plaintiff’s benefit to be paid by the  
3 court.” Gorton v. Todd, 793 F. Supp. 2d 1171, 1178-79 (E.D. Cal. 2011). Thus,  
4 if the Court were to appoint an expert witness in this action, the expert would be  
5 appointed to assist the Court. There are no pending matters on which the Court  
6 requires special assistance and the issues in this case are not so complex as to  
7 require the testimony of expert witnesses to assist the Court. Accordingly,  
8 Plaintiff’s motion for the appointment of experts is DENIED.

9 **C. Motion for an order to issue subpoenas duces tecum**

10 Plaintiff moves for an order directing the issuance of ten (10) subpoenas  
11 duces tecum. (ECF No. 92.) Plaintiff requests the Court order the U.S. Marshal  
12 to serve the subpoenas upon the following:

- 13 1. Sharp Chula Vista Medical Center
- 14 2. Alvarado Medical Center
- 15 3. Tri-City Medical Center
- 16 4. Oscar A. Matthews, M.D., Tri-City Medical Center
- 17 5. Mohammad Pashmforoush, M.D., Tri-City Medical Center
- 18 6. Mohammad Pashmforoush, M.D.
- 19 7. David Guldseth, M.D., RJD
- 20 8. Jason Silva, M.D., RJD
- 21 9. John Hodges, M.D., RJD
- 22 10. Jose Gonzales, Laboratory Technician, RJD

23 “The clerk must issue a subpoena, signed but otherwise blank, to a party  
24 who requests it.” Fed. R. Civ. P. 45(a)(3). That party must complete the  
25 subpoena before service. Id. A subpoena must be either issued and signed by  
26 the clerk of court or an attorney. Id. A pro se plaintiff who is not admitted to  
27 practice law is not authorized to sign and issue a subpoena. Cramer v. Target  
28 Corp., 2010 WL 1791148, at \*1 (E.D. Cal. 2010). A plaintiff proceeding pro se  
and IFP is entitled to service of subpoenas by the U.S. Marshal. 29 U.S.C. §  
1915(d); see also Williams v. Paramo, 2017 WL 5001286, at \*4 (S.D. Cal. 2017).  
The court’s authorization of a subpoena duces tecum requested by an IFP

1 plaintiff is subject to limitations, however. Baca v. Biter, 2017 WL 1476943, at \*2  
2 (E.D. Cal. 2017). Limitations include the relevance of the information sought as  
3 well as the burden and expense to the non-party in providing the requested  
4 information. Id. (citing Fed. R. Civ. P. 26, 45). The Federal Rules of Civil  
5 Procedure “were not intended to burden a non-party with a duty to suffer  
6 excessive or unusual expenses in order to comply with a subpoena duces  
7 tecum.” Alexander v. California Dept. of Corrections, 2010 WL 5114931, at \*3  
8 (E.D. Cal. 2010) (citation omitted). Non-parties are “entitled to have the benefit  
9 of the Court’s vigilance” in considering these factors. Id. (citation omitted). The  
10 IFP statute does not entitle a plaintiff to a waiver of the fees or expenses of the  
11 witness. Tedder v. Odel, 890 F.2d 210, 211-12 (9th Cir. 1989).

12       The Court is unable to direct the service of the subpoenas that have been  
13 presented to the Court, as the proposed subpoenas are subpoenas to appear  
14 and testify at a hearing or trial in a civil action (Form AO 88) (see ECF No. 92 at  
15 35-64), not subpoenas to produce documents, information, or objects (Form AO  
16 88B). Additionally, the proposed subpoenas are signed by Plaintiff, which  
17 renders them invalid as Plaintiff is not an officer of the Court. Furthermore, any  
18 documents within the possession, custody or control of Defendants or the CDCR  
19 may be obtained by Plaintiff through a request for production of documents.  
20 Indeed, Defendants have already indicated that any documents from Plaintiff’s  
21 medical file in the possession, custody, or control of Defendants and the  
22 California Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (“CDCR”) will be  
23 produced to Plaintiffs. See, e.g., Defs.’ Resps. to Pl.’s First Set of Req. for Prod.  
24 of Docs., ECF No. 92 at 19-21.

25       Based on the above, Plaintiff’s motion for the issuance of subpoenas duces  
26 tecum is GRANTED IN PART. The Clerk of Court shall issue to Plaintiff six (6)  
27 signed, but otherwise blank, subpoena duces tecum forms and shall send six (6)  
28 U.S. Marshal Forms 285. Upon receipt of the properly completed U.S. Marshal


1 285 forms and accompanying subpoenas, the U.S. Marshal is directed to  
2 promptly effect service of the subpoenas to the recipients listed at Nos. 1-6  
3 above. The proposed subpoenas to RJD medical providers (Nos. 7-10 listed  
4 above) are not needed as Plaintiff may obtain the requested documents through  
5 a request for production of documents served pursuant to Fed. R. Civ. P. 34.

6 **D. Motion for an order for a telephone conference call speaker**

7 Plaintiff requests the Court order RJD to use a conference call speaker  
8 attached to the telephone for the January 9, 2018 telephonic Case Management  
9 Conference. (ECF No. 94.) Prison management must be left to the broad  
10 discretion of prison administrators, and does not fall within the Court's  
11 jurisdiction. Plaintiff's request is therefore DENIED.

12 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

13 Dated: December 27, 2017

14   
15 Honorable Jan M. Adler  
16 United States Magistrate Judge  
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